Pakistani Military Ruler's call for strategic self restraint

558. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani military ruler made a call to India to agree to a strategic self restraint;

(b) if so, what are the main contents of the call made by him; and

(c) whether any talks are proposed to be held between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) On 13th June 2000, Pakistan suggested through an official statement that India and Pakistan adhere to a "strategic restraint regime for avoidance of an arms race, nuclear and conventional, and confidence building in the region on a reciprocal basis". The statement was issued on the eve of resumption of Pakistan's dialogue with the US on non-proliferation after a long gap.

(c) No, Sir.

Visit to Sri Lanka

559. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Sri Lanka recently in the context of continued Jaffna siege by LTTE and following the killing of the Sri Lanka leader C.V. Gooneratne by an LTTE human bomb;

(b) if so, whether he carried any specific message from the Prime Minister, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he discussed with Sri Lankan Government the question of devolution of powers to Tamils; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Minister of External Affairs visited Sri Lanka from June 11-12-2000.